

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN SA 02645 262334Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 MCT-01 SY-05 HA-05
EB-08 COME-00 AID-05 USSS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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O R 261620Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8211
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 2645

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT ASEC SHUM ES PINS
SUBJ: BUSINESS COMMUNITY APPREHENSIONS GROWING OUT OF TERRORISM
SITUATION IN EL SALVADOR

REF: SAN SALVADOR 2630

1. RECENT KIDNAPPING OF JAPANESE BUSINESSMAN FUJIO MATSUMOTO
HAS INTRODUCED A NEW AND UNPRECEDENTED DIMENSION INTO
TERRORISM SITUATION OF EL SALVADOR. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE,
KIDNAPPERS' FIRST COMMUNIQUE IDENTIFIED MATSUMOTO AS
BELONGING TO US-GERMAN-JAPANESE CLIQUE OF FOREIGN
INVESTORS EXPLOITING NATIONAL ECONOMY AND WORKERS.
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2. PUBLICIZED RANSOM DEMANDS FOR MATSUMOTO'S RELEASE HAVE
CONCENTRATED ON POLITICAL ASPECTS WHICH MOST LOCAL
OBSERVERS CONSIDER IMPOSSIBLE OF FULFILLMENT.

3. THURSDAY PUBLICATION OF KIDNAPPERS, LATEST COMMUNIQUE
SETTING DEADLINE FOR FULFILLMENT OF THEIR DEMANDS AT NOON

FRIDAY (TODAY) HAS HAD PROFOUND IMPACT UPON LOCAL PSYCHOLOGY. OPINION IS DIVIDED INTO WHETHER THAT DEADLINE WILL SEE EXECUTION OF MATSUMOTO OR EXTENSION INTO SOME NEW NEGOTIATING PHASE. BUT ALL OBSERVERS CONCUR THAT SITUATION IS GRAVE AND HAS ENORMOUS POTENTIAL REPERCUSSIONS FOR POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND INVESTMENT-CLIMATE ASPECTS OF EL SALCATOR SCENE.

4. US RESIDENT BUSINESS COMMUNITY IS SHAKEN BY THESE DEVELOPMENTS. SOME LEADING MEMBERS HAVE HASTILY ABSENTED SELVES FROM EL SALVADOR. OTHERS ARE CONSIDERING TRANSFER OF THEIR OPERATIONS TO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. OTHERS ARE CONSULTING EMBASSY FOR INFORMATION AND ADVICE. IN AT LEAST ONE CASE, TOP-LEVEL SECURITY EXPERTS FROM US COMPANY HEADQUARTERS HAVE ARRIVED TO DISCUSS SITUATION WITH US. WE ARE SCHEDULING FORMAL MEETING WITH BUSINESS COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES FOR COMING WEEK.

5. MUCH THE SAME IS HAPPENING WITH RESIDENT GERMAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY. GERMAN AMBASSADOR HAS MET WITH THEM AND SUGGESTED INFORMAL SECURITY PROCEDURES WHICH THEY MIGHT TAKE. THEY ARE UNEASY AND CONTINUING PRESENCE OF SOME MEMBERS IS VERY MUCH IN QUESTION. MOST RECENTLY, WE HAVE BECOME AWARE OF SIMILAR GROWING APPREHENSIONS IN SMALLER RESIDENT BRITISH BUSINESS COMMUNITY.
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6. EXECUTION OF MATSUMOTO WOULD GEOMETRICALLY COMPOUND THESE FEARS AND APPREHENSIONS. FOR THIS REASON, MANY ANALYSTS OF LOCAL SCENE PREDICT THAT THIS IS TERRORISTS' REAL OBJECTIVE AND THAT JAPANESE BUSINESSMAN IS DOOMED. TO THE EXTENT THAT EL SALVADOR FEELS REAL NEED FOR FOREIGN CAPITAL INVESTMENT AND PARTICIPATION IN NEW INDUSTRIALIZATION, TERRORISTS' LATEST INITIATIVE THREATENS REAL BLOW AT NATIONAL ECONOMY. GOES APPEARS FULLY AWARE OF THIS, AT A LOSS AS TO HOW TO PROCEED, AND VERY UPTIGHT ABOUT THE WHOLE SITUATION.
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Message Attributes

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